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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
3 December 1954

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PEIPING OFFERS TO REPATRIATE 30,000 JAPANESE:

Peiping's offer broadcast on 1 December to repatriate those of the 30,000 Japanese in Communist China who "voluntarily wish to go back" is the first such offer made by the Communists since they acquired control of China in 1949. This move is consistent with the Sino-Soviet policy of alternately threatening and conciliating the Japanese. The offer may presage a new Communist emphasis on friendly gestures or might be aimed at discrediting the Yoshida government by setting impossible terms.

Many of these Japanese, who have been held since 1945, have been detained because of their skills as technicians, doctors, nurses or military specialists. Those technicians still indispensable to Peiping are not expected to be repatriated.

The Japan Communist Party would gain credit from any repatriation effected through Communist-front organizations, as Peiping may demand. Moreover, many of the repatriates would be pro-Communists who would strengthen the weakened Japanese Communist movement.

Peiping's comment has not suggested that its acceptance for the first time of the principle of voluntary repatriation will extend to the POW issue in the Korean talks.

Japanese Foreign Minister Okazaki, in commenting on the offer to the Upper House of the Diet, stated that it could not include the Japanese in Manchuria. He added that the repatriation issue had no connection with trade with Communist China or with ideology or policy matters. (Factual data from: [redacted])

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Document No.	065		
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	25X1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reclassified			
Class. Changed To:	TS	S	C
Auth:	HR 70-2		
Date:	06 JUL 1978		
By:	[redacted]		